

El Camino College Makes Rapid Strides Since Founded in 1947

By CARL G. ARFWEDSON
(Mr. Arfwedson is Director of Business Management of El Camino College and co-founder of the institution).

The phenomenal growth in the Centinela Valley-South Bay area is strikingly reflected in the rapid enrollment and growth of El Camino College. Established in 1947, El Camino's enrollment has, in a short period of time, increased from an initial 1100 students to an enrollment this September approaching 6000.

Enrollment estimates made in 1947 by the administrative staff, headed by Founder-President Forrest G. Murdock, called for a building program to house 5000 students.

These sights have now been raised so that the building program as it continues will ultimately care for a student enrollment of 10,000.

California has long led the nation in the establishment of junior colleges (although the term "junior" is being disregarded in polite educational circles because of the connotation of possible inferiority).

The junior college is now referred to as a two-year institution of higher learning, or "community college." El Camino is one among some half dozen which have been added in the southern part of the state within the past six years.

Students whose legal residence is in the Centinela Valley or the South Bay or Torrance area have the advantage of enrolling at El Camino College for the first two years of a regular college course and continuing to live at home.

In addition, persons employed in local industry may enroll in part-time courses of either regular college courses or in vocational subjects. The degree of Associate in Arts is granted after the completion of the regular two-year course.

Beginnings
In its first year of existence, El Camino College, a public school supported by local taxpayers and subsidized in some measure by the state, established its first classes in three public high schools of the area while negotiations were carried on for the securing of its own campus.

Faced with a need for land and without funds, since the district at that time had not become a taxing entity, negotiations were entered into with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for some 90 acres of land in Alondra Park, a county park of approximately 319 acres, which lay undeveloped.

Enabling bills were introduced in the State Legislature and signed by the Governor permitting the County Supervisors to transfer the park land to the school district.

Under the terms of the agreement the college leased the property from the county with an option to purchase at an agreed price. The agreement also provided that if the college expended the amount of the purchase price for recreational facilities which could be used jointly by both the college and the general public, the land would be deeded to the school district free and clear.

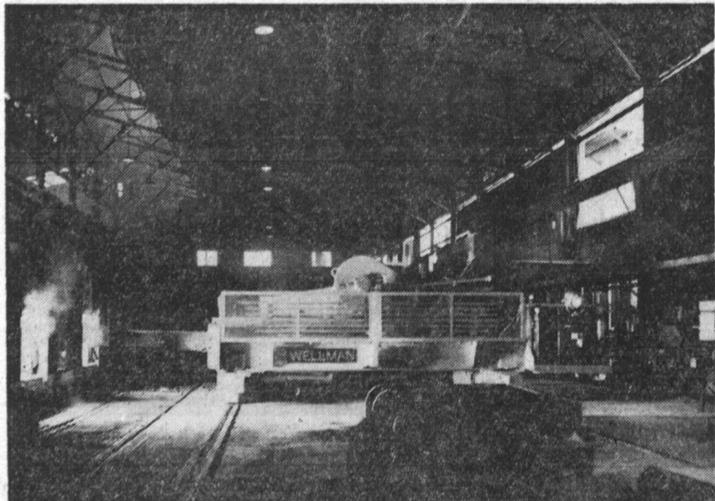
After acquisition of the prop-

erty, barracks type buildings were secured from the Federal Government and moved at government expense from the Santa Ana Army Air Base to the college site.

These buildings, together with other temporary units, were erected on an area of the campus planned for later use as a parking lot.

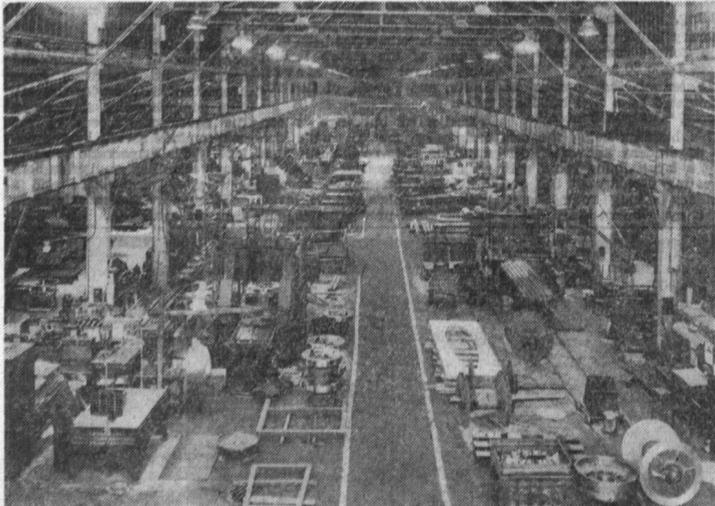
First Structures
Due to the purchase agreement with Los Angeles County, the first permanent structures commenced were, necessarily, of a recreational nature. Utility lines were laid, campus streets and drives graded and paved, closely followed by a gymnasium building, concrete tennis courts, three football fields, a baseball diamond, field house and maintenance shops and a stadium. This latter structure, when eventually completed, will seat between 19,000 and 20,000 persons. Upon near completion of the athletic recreational facilities, work was commenced on permanent academic buildings.

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LATEST ADDITION to facilities at the Torrance Works of United States Steel is an 88-ton charging machine shown here loading open hearth furnaces with pig iron and steel scrap, the basic ingredients in a heat of steel. The machine, which has a charging capacity of 7 1/2 tons, moves along a set of tracks under its own power. When the doors of the furnaces are

opened, the machine reaches forth a long steel arm to pick up a steel box loaded with scrap or pig iron from a train of small cars. The arm then pushes the box into the open door, turns it upside down to empty it, withdraws it from the furnace and returns it to the car from which it was taken.



ONE END of National Supply's main machine shop shown here, is indicative of the wide variety of machine tools in National's shops, as well as a diversity of electric steel products.

ity of machine tools in National's shops, as well as a diversity of electric steel products.



"A-BOMBER PRODUCTION SITE CHOSEN: Officials of El Segundo Division of Douglas Aircraft Company, Inc., survey location for \$1,500,000 building now going up at Aviation and El Segundo boulevards. Steel structure

will house facilities for producing Navy's "Bantam A-Bomber," A4D Skyhawk, smallest and lightest U. S. jet combat plane, also fabricated and assembled at the Torrance plant.

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